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Group 2100

1 THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
2 Application Serial No. .... 09/286,822  
3 Filing Date ..... 4/05/99  
4 Inventorship ..... Grate et al.  
5 Assignee ..... Microsoft Corporation  
6 Group Art Unit ..... 2142  
7 Examiner ..... D. Blair  
8 Attorney's Docket No. .... MS1-305US  
9 Title: E-Commerce System and Method for Automated Configuration of Trading  
10 Relationships

11 To: Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
12 Washington, D.C. 20231

13 From: Emmanuel A. Rivera (Tel. 509-324-9256; Fax 509-323-8979)  
14 Customer No. 22801

15 **RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF MAY 3, 2004**

16 Sir:

17 In response to the Office action of May 3, 2004, the response is provided as  
18 follows:

19 The listing of the claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

20 Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13 of this paper.